deformed. All young, sound and promising trees are reserved to develop, and to be natural shedders of seed. About 44,734 trees were felled in the forests of 6 ranges, producing 61,638 poles and miscellaneous pieces, with 29,690 cubic feet of firewood, which cost Rs. 2,858 to exploit, and realised Rs. 26,544 at auction sales.

134. One compartment in each of 9 different forest blocks, spread over six ranges in the Sátára Division, the aggregate area of the coupes being about 615 acres, was exploited departmentally, the timber being almost entirely teak: of which 9,456 pieces with 69,407 cubic feet of firewood, which had cost Rs. 2,296 to bring out to sale depôts, were sold at auction and realised Rs. 9,665. All young and promising growth was left to increase, and the reserves totalled about 4,11¼ teak, intermingling with 11,068 junglewood trees.

135. In the Sholápur Division, no forests are worked on either of these systems.

(*5*). *Unregulated Fellings.*

136. In the East Khándesh Division, the fellings made by the Bhils in exercise of their rights or privileges in the Sátpudá forests come under this denomination. There is absolutely no control, save the reservation of a few 3 or 4 favoured kinds of trees: they go into the forests and cut at will, removing what they like, and leaving to rot and burn what they like: they are not regulated by permits, are not restricted to particular or defined areas, nor tied down to any season or period of time. And the natural result is the depletion of certain, the more accessible, portions of the forests.

137. Under this heading too come all the timber fellings on the Bhil settlements in the West Khándesh Division, which are made in the Shirpur, Taloda, Akráni, Nandurbár, Navápur and Pimpalner ranges, the object being to cut as many trees as will sell, and to clear the lands for cultivation or unrestricted use by their occupants as soon as possible. The Bhil privileges in this division are likewise unregulated fellings in the fullest interpretation of the term.

138. Fellings of trees to meet free grants in all divisions are unregulated save by the demand; they have to be made at any time convenient to the grantees and in localities most suitable to them.

139. In the clearing of boundary lines of reserved forests in the Peint Range of the Násik Division, and in the several ranges of the Sátára Division, the fellings are only regulated by the growth on the ground to be cleared. In the same manner the clear fellings of teak and other royal trees upon occupied lands in the Násik, Poona and Sátára divisions are not regulated by any plan dictated by forestry.

(*e*). Extraction and Transport of Major Forest Produce by land and water.

140. Water carriage for the transport of forest produce is nowhere resorted to in the Central Circle at present. The timber and firewood cut departmentally in the several divisions are stacked at temporary sale depôts, either inside or outside the boundaries of the forests, generally in sites accessible to carts, and the removal of the wood subsequent to its sale is left to the purchasers. It is far better that private enterprise should concern itself with the distribution of timber and forest produce to satisfy the wants of local supply and the requirements of trade than the Forest Department should embark in such speculations. However, cases do happen when the market will not come to the forests, and the Forest Department have necessarily to convey timber and other forest produce long distances to obtain a market, but no cases of the kind have occurred in the Central Circle during the year of this report. When timber and other forest produce is sold on foot, or on the trees to purchasers, they are required to make their own arrangements for its felling, collection, extraction or exploitation.

141. Permanently maintained roads and fair-weather cart tracks have been constructed in all directions in the country of the Central Circle, and there are but few forest areas which have not been opened out to vehicular communication. The railways are freely utilised for the distribution of timber and other forest produce after such have been brought to the railway lines.

142. In West Khándesh the Tápti River is used by timber dealers and others who purchase from the Forest Department for floating timber from the Navápur Range to Surat. And it will possibly be found practicable to utilise the Narbada as a water-way, for the produce of the Akráni forests to be conveyed to the markets of Gujarát when these forests are fully worked. At present, how-

ever, paucity of establishments prevents the Akráni forests, which have only recently been settled under the Forest Act, being exploited to any considerable extent.

143. Bamboos are exploited and removed by purchasers and consumers from the forests of all the divisions of the Central Circle, except Sholápur, in headloads, cartloads, &c.

(*f*). Exploitation of Minor Forest Produce.

(*1*). *Extraction of Fodder.*

144. In the *West Khándesh Division*, there are seven valuable kurans, that is, portions of reserved forest the grass of which is sold annually to be cut and removed, but no grazing is allowed in them: 3 of these are in the Dhulia and 4 in the Sindkheda Range; their total area is 20,827 acres. In 1891-92 the right of taking the grass from them sold for Rs. 7,079, and in 1892-93 it went up to Rs. 9,055.

Grass can be removed from all open forests on payment of fees, except by privilege-holders, who may take it free; and from closed forests also by order of the Divisional Forest Officer. The fees charged are—

	Rs.	a.	p.
Cartload	0	2	0
Headload	0	0	3
Animal load	0	0	6

and during the forest year the undermentioned quantities of grass were removed from the West Khándesh forests:—

Cartloads	21,736
Headloads	5,131
Animal loads	691

145. In *East Khándesh* the valuable kurans were farmed for Rs. 16,049 against Rs. 19,159 of the previous year; and 20,490 cartloads were taken from closed forests. The rainfall of the season had been favourable to the growth of grass, which was luxuriant, and consequently the demand on the forests was not so great, as there was abundance of grass on lands outside the forest boundaries.

146. In the *Násik Division*, the purchasers of the grass are allowed to cut and remove the grass after the 15th September, and then to graze cattle on the stubble; there are 32,542 acres of valuable kuran the revenue derived from which amounted to Rs. 15,832, which is slightly less than of the year before.

147. In the *Ahmednagar Division* the grass in about 45,532 acres of the reserved forest was sold for extraction by hand, and realised Rs. 2,092: while 5,061 acres are placed free of charge at the disposal of the Commissariat and Remount Departments for grass supply as under—

Forest.	Area.	Estimated Value.
Given to Remount Department.	A. g.	Rs. a. p.
Kaudgaon	51 25	82 9 7
Jamb	45 11	72 7 8
Narayen doho...	34 4	54 8 11
Chichondi-Patil	596 10	954 0 0
Total ...	727 10	1,163 10 2
Given to the Commissariat Department.		
Kapurwádi	828 17	1,000 0 0
Deogaon	126 20	1,250 0 0
Shendi	272 36	2,000 0 0
Sesevádi	557 12	2,000 0 0
Imámpur	733 34	2,250 0 0
Gunjale	346 37	750 0 0
Manjursumbha	535 17	1,500 0 0
Ghospuri	822 14	1,250 0 0
Ratadgaon	110 0	1,250 0 0
Total ...	4,333 27	13,250 0 0
Grand Total ...	5,060 37	14,413 10 2